

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 DRC-01

/176 W

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R 270922Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9619

INFO DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GPOV; IV

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ADDRESSES MILITARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY ASSEMBLED ARMY AND GENDARMERIE OFFICERS

AT THE PALACE MORNING 25 JULY 74 FOR A PEP TALK. PRESIDENT TOLD

OFFICERS THAT ALL CITIZENS, CIVILIANS AND MILITARY, MUST ACTIVELY

PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. HE SAID ACTIONS WILL

BE TAKEN TO INSURE CONTINUAL PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY AND EQUAL

OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL. DISTORTION OF PUBLIC SERVICE WILL BE

REVIEWED AND CORRECTED. A POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL WILL BE FORMED TO

TRAIN YOUNG IVORIANS WITH A BACCALAUREAT IN GENERAL ADMINISTRATION,

CIVIL ENGINEERING, AND AS MILITARY OFFICERS. THE PRESIDENT

CALLED ON THE MILITARY TO REFLECT ON THE PROBLEMS AND TO

PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. A SECOND MEETING WILL BE HELD

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WITH THE MILITARY TO PURSUE WAYS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY.

COMMENT: THE MEETING WAS A SURPRISE AND WE WONDER WHY IT WAS HELD. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT DETECTED ANY UNREST AMONG THE MILITARY, WE SUSPECT THAT HOUPHOUET MAY BE CONCERNED ABOUT HIS MILITARY AFTER THE OCTOBER 72 COUP IN DAHOMEY, THE IVORY COAST MILITARY PLOTTERS UNCOVERED IN JUNE 73, THE NIGER COUP IN APRIL 74, AND THE RECENT EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MEETING MAY BE JUST ANOTHER CHAPTER IN HIS POLICY OF DIALOGUE WITH ALL ELEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, HOWEVER, WHEN AN AMERICAN BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT LATER THE SAME MORNING, APROPOS OF NOTHING IN THAT CALL, THE PRESIDENT SPOKE OF HIS DESIRE TO REFASHION THE IVORIAN ARMY INTO A SWPTS OR ISRAELI-TYPE MILITIA FORCE: MILITARY TRAINING FOR ALL, ANNUAL CALL-UPS FOR REFRESHER PROGRAMS, AND A SMALL STANDING ARMY.

SMITH

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Message Attributes

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